MARVEL COMICS
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30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE

Steve Lightle — COVER
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pg.

WOLVERINE/ TYPHOID MARY 1

TYPHOID'S KISS
Part 2 of 8
"A KILLER'S RIGHTS"

The Company, proud of their good killer till he turned his talents on them, now wants him dead. The catch-22 is: does a murderer have rights if he murdered for his country? Logan goes off to find the truth, leaving serial killer Roberts chained in a motel....

Writer — ANN NOCENTI
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer — BILL OAKLEY
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

NIGHTCRAWLER 9

"NIGHT OF THE RIPPER"

Excalibur's Kurt Wagner, AKA the swashbuckling Nightcrawler, teleports into trouble as he tracks a latter-day Ripper who stalks the shadowed streets of London!

Writer — BARRY DUTTER
Penciler — MARK RUNYAN
Inker — TIM TUOHY
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — DANA MORESHEAD

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

Thus far (MCP #104), I have been very impressed with the current Wolverine/Nightcrawler serial. This is a meeting I've looked forward to for some time now, and I think Scott Lobdell handled it quite well. Kurt's resentment toward Logan in the latest installment felt quite natural and realistic, though I hope Mr. Lobdell will not leave this rift unresolved.

The Colan/Williamson artwork has also been very enjoyable, providing the perfect atmosphere for the serial. This is definitely one of the better stories this book has seen in recent months.

Surprisingly, I've also found myself enjoying the current Dr. Strange/Ghost Rider serial. I've never been a big fan of Mr. Leonardi's pencils, but his work is quite enjoyable here. His rendition of the good Doctor is adequate, though his Ghost Rider leaves a bit to be desired.

As for the Young Gods serial, I'll admit the Sutton/Holdredge team has, for the most part, been enjoyable—but that's as far as it goes. The serial started out with a strong opening scene, but quickly went downhill from there. As the esteemed Mr. Scott would say, I hurled.

I have only six words for you regarding the U.S Agent story: You've got to be kidding me!

Marson Fedrick
P.O. Box 514
Ellisville, MS 39437

Dear Terry,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #104:

Sam Kieth's Wolverine and Nightcrawler cover was very nice, indeed! I'd call it "Mutants in the Moonlight." Rating: A+.

The Ghost Rider and Dr. Strange cover was also beautifully drawn, but it wasn't as appealing as the others have been. Rating: B+.

All in all, this was probably one of the worst issues I've read thus far in this title. Don't get me wrong, this is by no means to say that it was bad; it just wasn't up to par with everything else I've seen from this title in the past.

Wolverine and Nightcrawler: This installment of "Male Bonding" was my least favorite of the four chapters thus far. I thought that Nightcrawler's decision to dive into the crowd of angry citizens was careless and stupid. These two words are not what I'd normally describe as facets of Nightcrawler's personality, so I'm blaming Scott Lobdell for faulty characterization (sorry, Scott!). But, I will give this installment one thing: My curiosity is piqued as to how the monsters will react to Wolvie & Nightie and vice versa. Rating: C-.

It seems that I have a sort of love/hate relationship with this Young Gods serial. I didn't particularly like Chapters 1 and 3, but I did enjoy Chapter 2, and this issue's Chapter 4, "Mall Massacre." Tom Sutton's pencils have definitely improved since he first began drawing this series, and that has made a difference! Rating: B-.

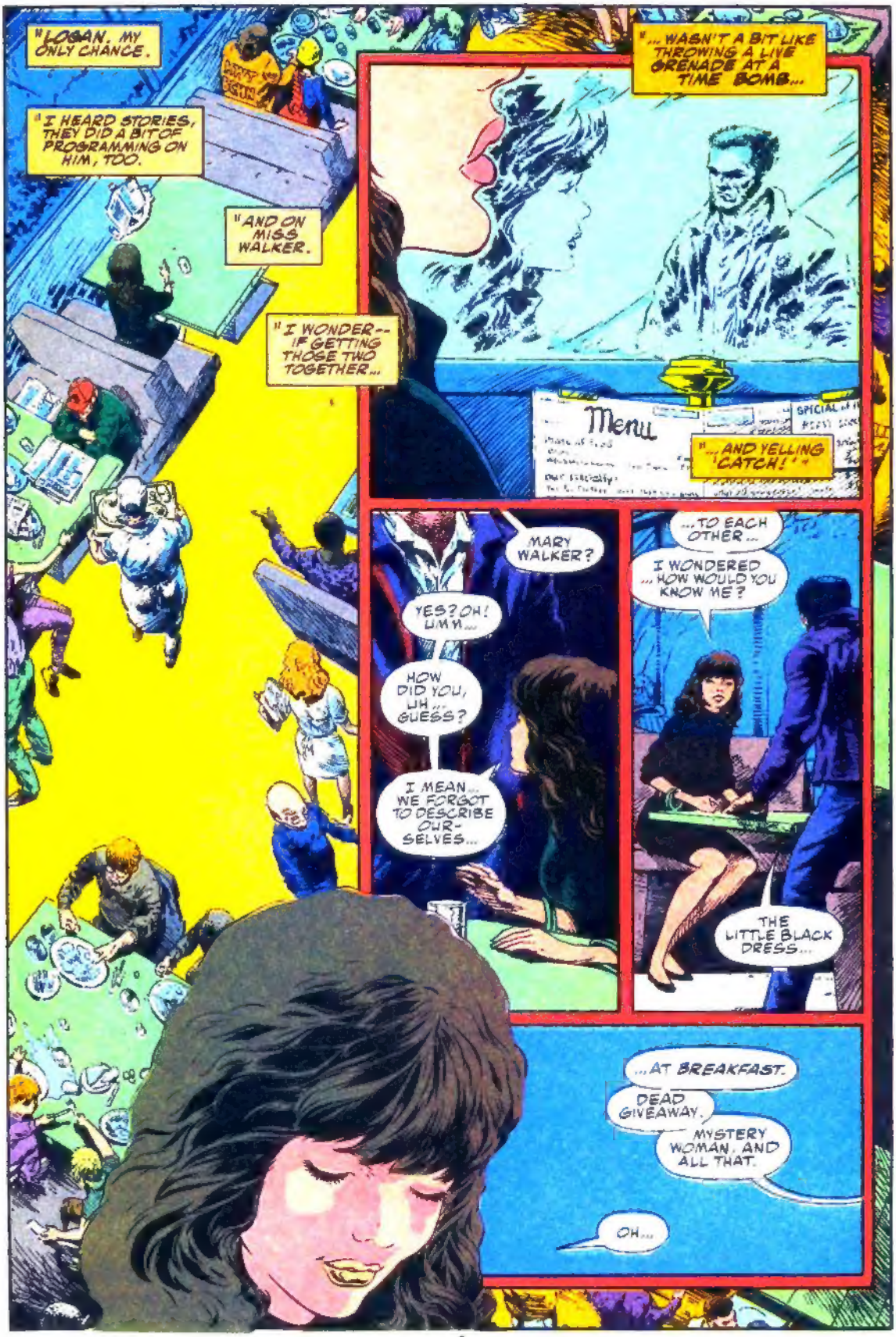
Ghost Rider & Dr. Strange: G.R. & D.S. battling a horde of monsters in Mephisto's realm? Does this mean we'll be seeing an appearance from the very demon, himself? Rating: B.

It seems that the one-shot stories have been the best reads for the last 10 issues. The U.S. Agent feature had a good message and an interesting villain. This was the first time in comics that I've actually encountered a villain with the mutant ability to absorb emotions of hatred. Rating: A-

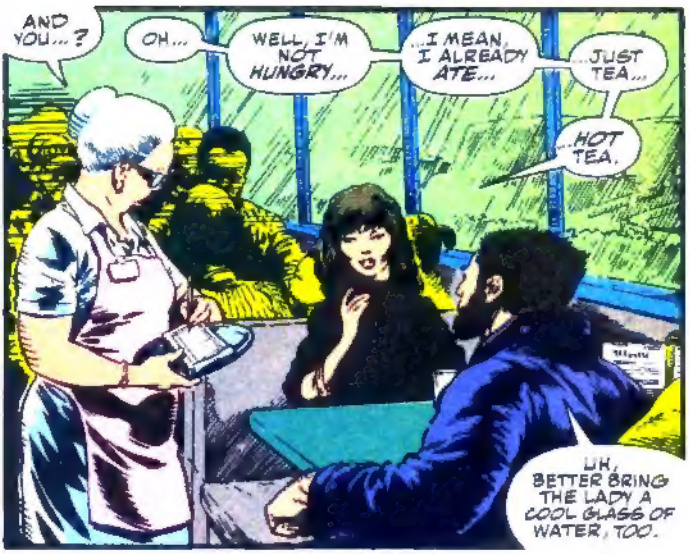
Overall rating of MCP #104: B

Mike Farmer
8745 Lake Glen Ct.
Alpharetta, GA 30202

ARSON.
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
EXPERTS SAY YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND THESE THINGS IN THE CHILDHOOD OF A HOMICIDAL MANIAC.
NOT IN MINE.
I NEVER DID ANY OF THOSE THINGS.
BUT I'M A HOMICIDAL MANIAC. A KILLER.
FEATURING
WOLVERINE!
AND
TYPHOID MARY
I'VE INJECTED LOVELY, TRACELESS POISONS OR INDUCED GENTLE LITTLE HEART ATTACKS, OR SIMPLY STOPPED AN OXYGEN SUPPLY.
CLEAN, CLINICAL, U.S. GOVERNMENT-APPROVED, BLOODLESS DEATH.
TYPHOID'S KISS / PART 2
A KILLER'S RIGHTS
THEY PROGRAMMED ME WELL. IT WASN'T MY FAULT FROM BIRTH.
I DIDN'T DO THOSE THINGS IN MY CHILDHOOD.
SO I'M NOT GUILTY NOW. I'M NOT.


"LOGAN. MY ONLY CHANCE.
"I HEARD STORIES, THEY DID A BIT OF PROGRAMMING ON HIM, TOO.
"AND ON MISS WALKER.
"I WONDER-- IF GETTING THOSE TWO TOGETHER...
"...WASN'T A BIT LIKE THROWING A LIVE GRENADE AT A TIME BOMB...
Menu
"...AND YELLING 'CATCH!'"
MARY WALKER?
YES? OH! UMM...
HOW DID YOU, UH... GUESS?
I MEAN... WE FORGOT TO DESCRIBE OUR-SELVES...
...TO EACH OTHER...
I WONDERED ...HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ME?
THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS...
...AT BREAKFAST.
DEAD GIVEAWAY.
MYSTERY WOMAN. AND ALL THAT.
OH...

I NEVER BURNED DOWN A HOUSE.
I NEVER TORTURED AN ANIMAL.
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM. I WASN'T MEANT TO BE A KILLER.
SO THIS ISN'T MY FAULT. THEY DID IT TO ME. THEY BRAINWASHED ME. BUT...
...CAN YOU REALLY PROGRAM A MAN TO MURDER? OR...
...DOES THE MAN HAVE TO ALREADY POSSESS SOME KIND OF GUT POTENTIAL?

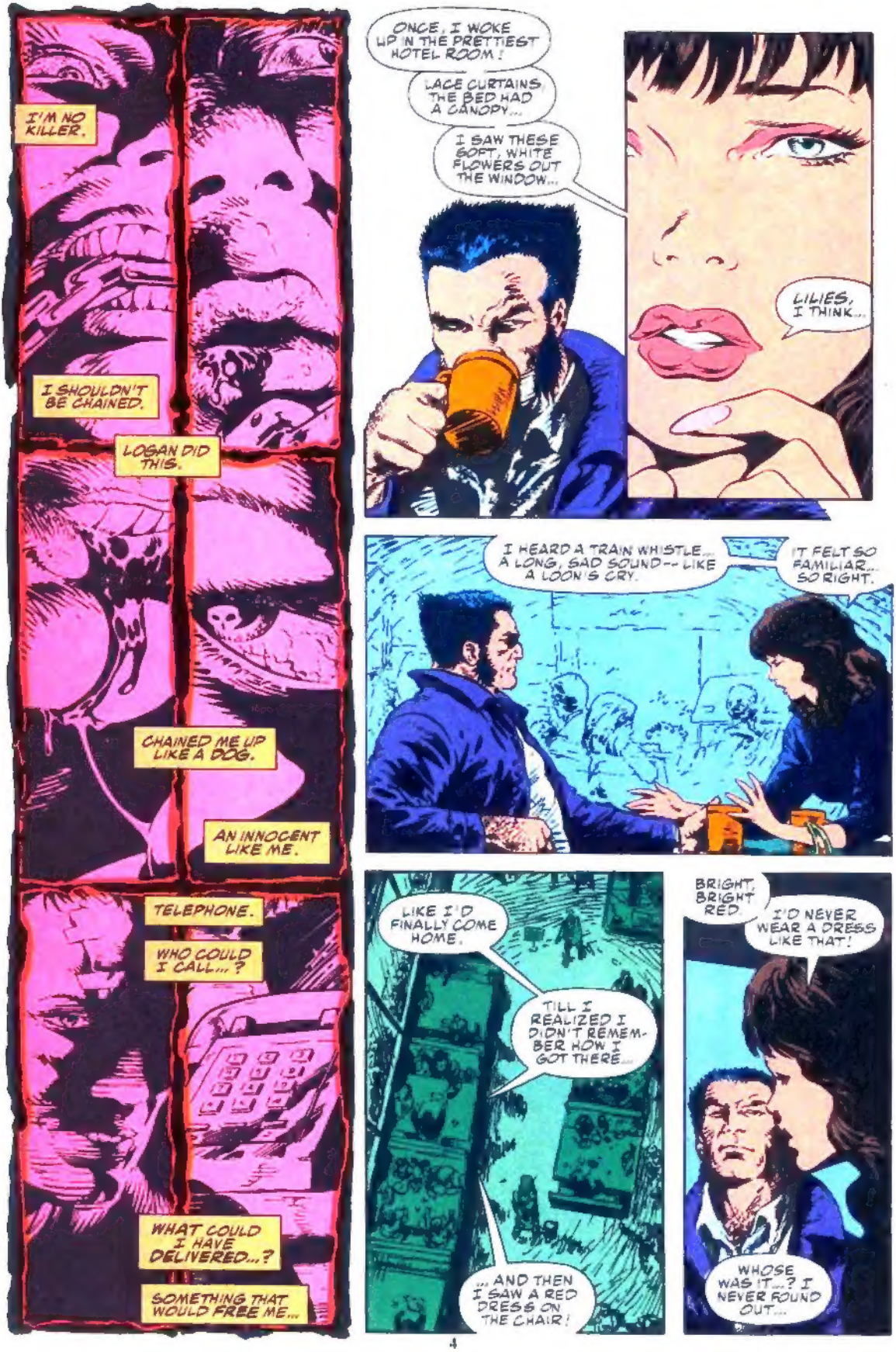

AND YOU...?
OH...
WELL, I'M NOT HUNGRY...
...I MEAN, I ALREADY ATE...
...JUST TEA...
...HOT TEA.
UH, BETTER BRING THE LADY A COOL GLASS OF WATER, TOO.

:HUMPH:
SO, WHY ARE YOU HELPING ON THIS THING?
ME? WELL... I DON'T KNOW.

I'M NOT SURE I EVER WAS, YOU KNOW, ONE OF YOU. I MEAN, AN AGENT...OR PART OF THOSE THINGS...
...SUCH A MAN'S WORLD, I'M NOT LIKE THAT.

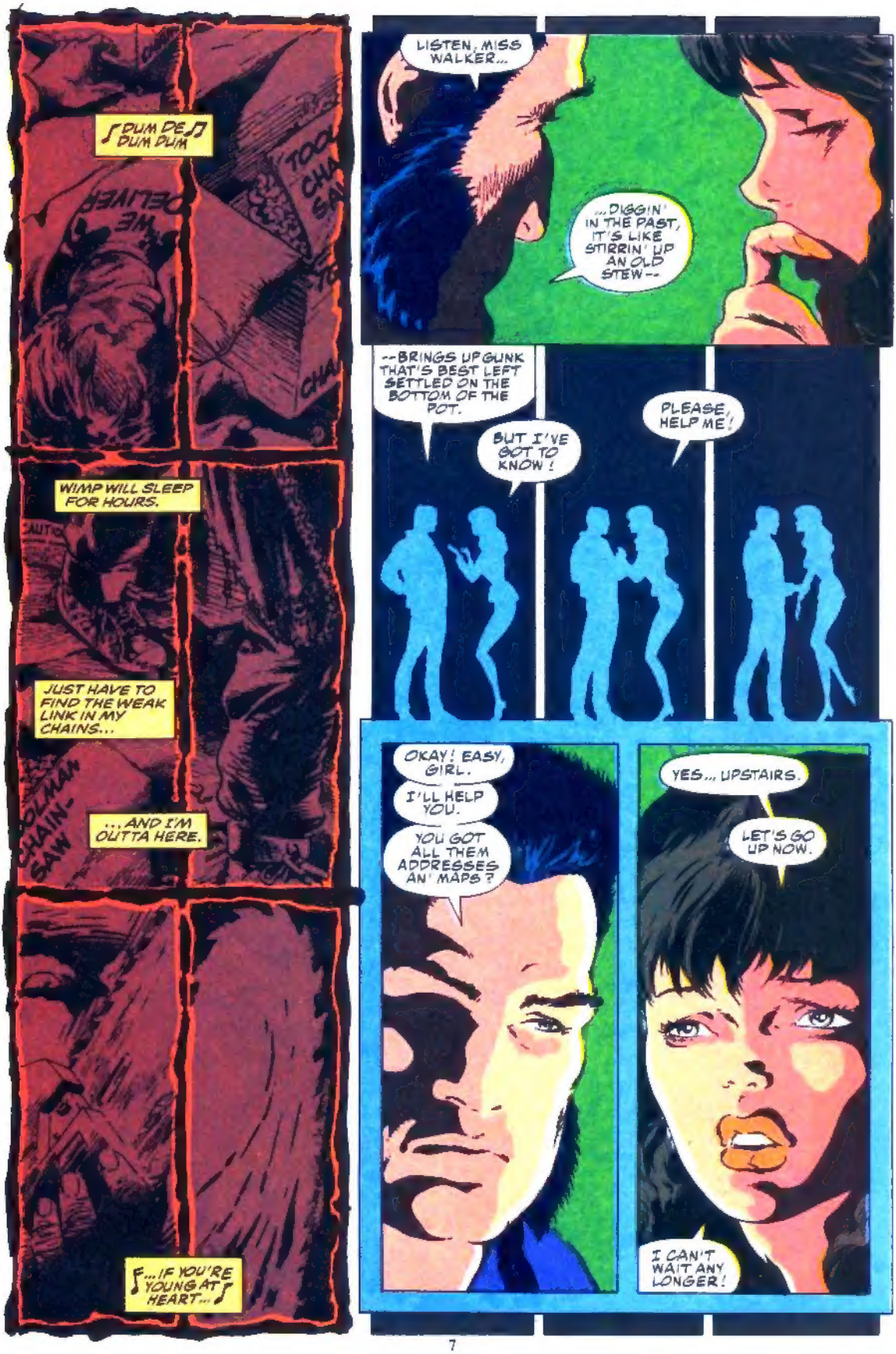
BUT...THERE ARE CLUES. I HAVE... MEMORY BLOCKS.
AND SOMETIMES NIGHTMARES THAT I'VE... I'VE DONE...

...TERRIBLE THINGS.

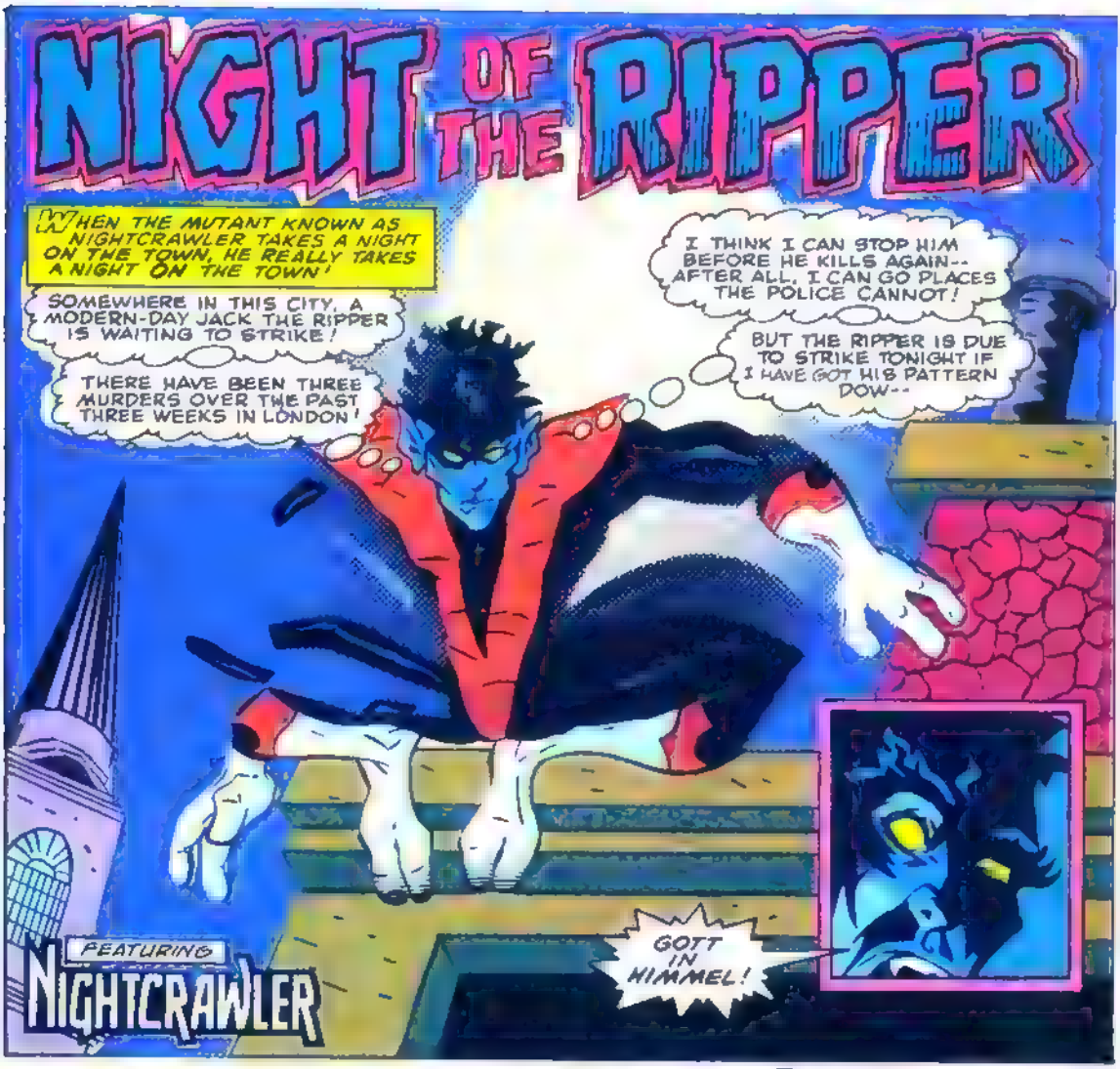

I'M NO KILLER.
I SHOULDN'T BE CHAINED.
LOGAN DID THIS.
CHAINED ME UP LIKE A DOG.
AN INNOCENT LIKE ME.
TELEPHONE.
WHO COULD I CALL...?
WHAT COULD I HAVE DELIVERED...?
SOMETHING THAT WOULD FREE ME...
ONCE, I WOKE UP IN THE PRETTIEST HOTEL ROOM!
LACE CURTAINS, THE BED HAD A CANOPY...
I SAW THESE SOFT, WHITE FLOWERS OUT THE WINDOW...
LILIES, I THINK...
I HEARD A TRAIN WHISTLE... A LONG, SAD SOUND -- LIKE A LOON'S CRY.
IT FELT SO FAMILIAR... SO RIGHT.
LIKE I'D FINALLY COME HOME.
TILL I REALIZED I DIDN'T REMEMBER HOW I GOT THERE...
...AND THEN I SAW A RED DRESS ON THE CHAIR!
BRIGHT, BRIGHT RED.
I'D NEVER WEAR A DRESS LIKE THAT!
WHOSE WAS IT...? I NEVER FOUND OUT...

BOSS SAID TO RUSH THIS...
COME ON, BABY, WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?
SOME GUY'S POOR DOG'S GOT ITS FOOT TRAPPED IN A RACOON TRAP.
FOOTSTEPS! C'MERE, BABY!
POOR DOG. HOPE IT'S NOT IN PAIN!
NOK NOK
COME ON IN!
THE DOG'S RIGHT IN HERE.
... AND THEN I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR.
I HAD A BRUISE...
... ON MY LIP.
AND THERE WERE MARKS LIKE ROPE BURNS...
... ON MY WRISTS.
YOU REMEMBER NOTHING?
NO.
TYPICAL.
THAT'S THE WAY THEY DO IT.

HERE YOU GO, SIR-- SIR?! HEY!!
I KNOW WE'RE DOING THIS TO HELP ROBERTS, BUT...
YEAH, SURE. HELP ROBERTS.
LOOK, IF WE CAN JUST GET SOME STRONG EVIDENCE OF MIND-CONTROL WORK OF THAT NATURE--
--ALL IT MEANS IS THAT ROBERTS GETS A FAIR TRIAL BEFORE THEY LOCK HIM UP, 'STEAD OF JUST A BULLET IN THE BACK.
SOME HELP.
WELL, IF I COULD SEE SOME OF THE FILES, EVEN MEET SOME OF THE DOCTORS...
...MAYBE I COULD PIECE TOGETHER WHAT THEY DID TO ME.
WE'LL TRY, BUT DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP.
THE WAY THEY DO IT THESE DAYS -- THE SURGERY, THE IMPLANTS, THE CHEMICALS--
--IT'S SO SUBTLE, SO SOPHISTICATED...
...ONCE THEY'VE WORKED ON YOUR HEAD, YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU ARE AGAIN.


♪DUM DE DUM DUM♪
WIMP WILL SLEEP FOR HOURS.
JUST HAVE TO FIND THE WEAK LINK IN MY CHAINS...
...AND I'M OUTTA HERE.
♪...IF YOU'RE YOUNG AT HEART...♪
LISTEN, MISS WALKER...
...DIGGIN' IN THE PAST, IT'S LIKE STIRRIN' UP AN OLD STEW--
--BRINGS UP GUNK THAT'S BEST LEFT SETTLED ON THE BOTTOM OF THE POT.
BUT I'VE GOT TO KNOW!
PLEASE, HELP ME!
OKAY! EASY, GIRL.
I'LL HELP YOU.
YOU GOT ALL THEM ADDRESSES AN' MAPS?
YES... UPSTAIRS.
LET'S GO UP NOW.
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!

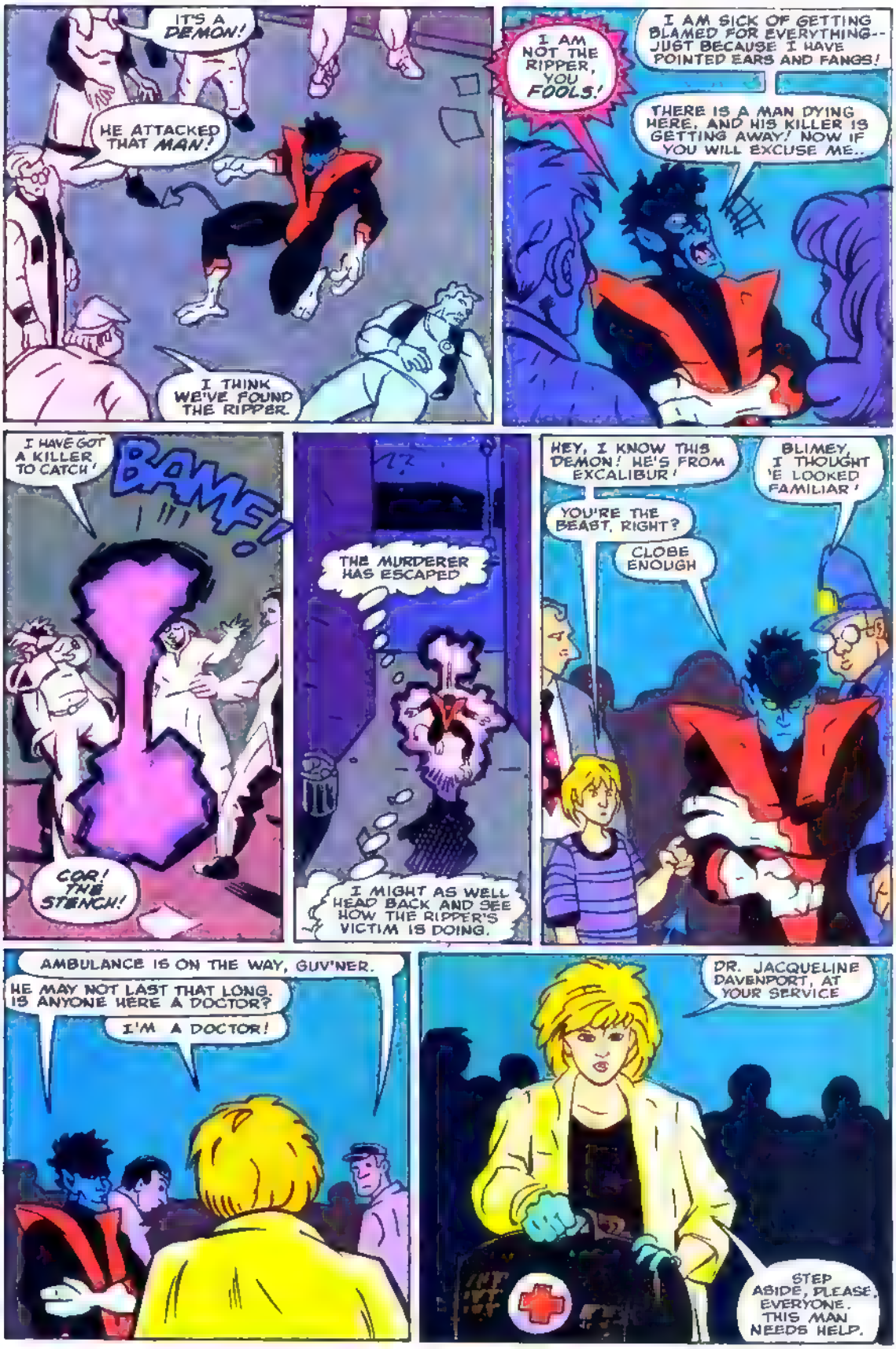
READY?
YES.
WHAT FIRST?
THERE ARE SOME FILMS, IN A VAULT AT AN OLD GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSE.
TRAINING SESSIONS, OPERATIONS, EXPERIMENTS ... WHO KNOWS WHAT WAS RECORDED.
LOGAN... WHATEVER WE FIND OUT...
YOU WOULDN'T... TURN ME IN, TO THE POLICE?
OF COURSE NOT.
BUT... I'VE WOKEN UP WITH BLOOD ON MY HANDS!
WE ALL HAVE, DARLIN'.
MARY...
...FORGET ALL THAT STUFF.
JUST REMEMBER THIS ONE THING...
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

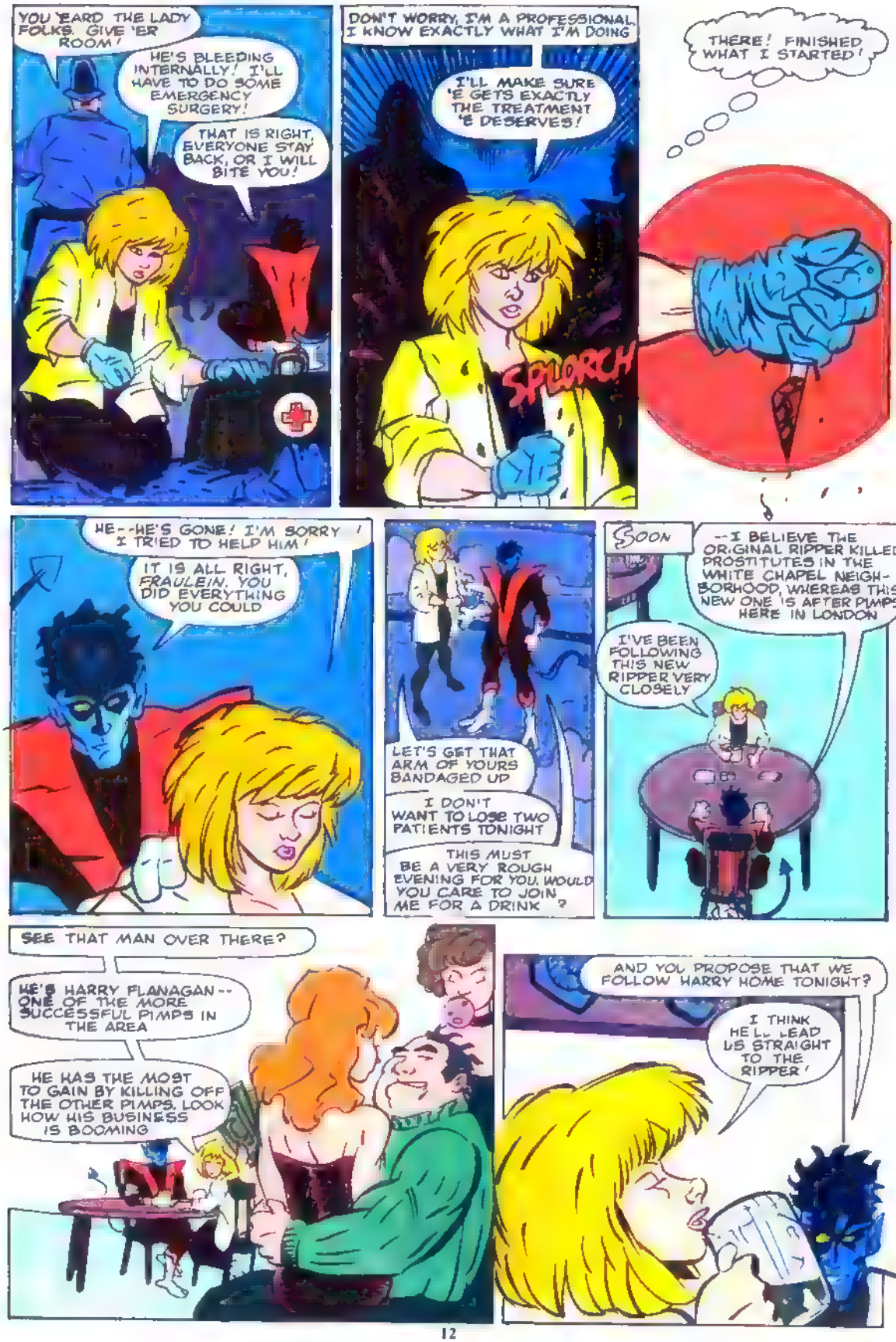

NIGHT OF THE RIPPER
WHEN THE MUTANT KNOWN AS NIGHTCRAWLER TAKES A NIGHT ON THE TOWN, HE REALLY TAKES A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!
SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY, A MODERN-DAY JACK THE RIPPER IS WAITING TO STRIKE!
THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MURDERS OVER THE PAST THREE WEEKS IN LONDON!
I THINK I CAN STOP HIM BEFORE HE KILLS AGAIN-- AFTER ALL, I CAN GO PLACES THE POLICE CANNOT!
BUT THE RIPPER IS DUE TO STRIKE TONIGHT IF I HAVE GOT HIS PATTERN DOW--
GOTT IN HIMMEL!
FEATURING NIGHTCRAWLER

THE RIPPER-- ABOUT TO STRIKE AGAIN!

'ELP! SOMEONE 'ELP ME!

THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE FILLS THE AIR AS NIGHTCRAWLER TELEPORTS TO THE GROUND.
STOP!
SLASH!
DROP THE KNIFE, MEIN FREUND!
AHRR!
BLAST! STILL MOVING TOO SLOW FROM MY RECENT LEG INJURY*!
* EXCALIBUR #3 - TERRY
THE RIPPER IS GETTING AWAY... BUT THIS MAN NEEDS HELP!
UUUH
THE RIPPER CAN WAIT
I CANNOT ABANDON SOMEONE WHO IS DYING
EEEK! A MONSTER!
HERE WE GO AGAIN

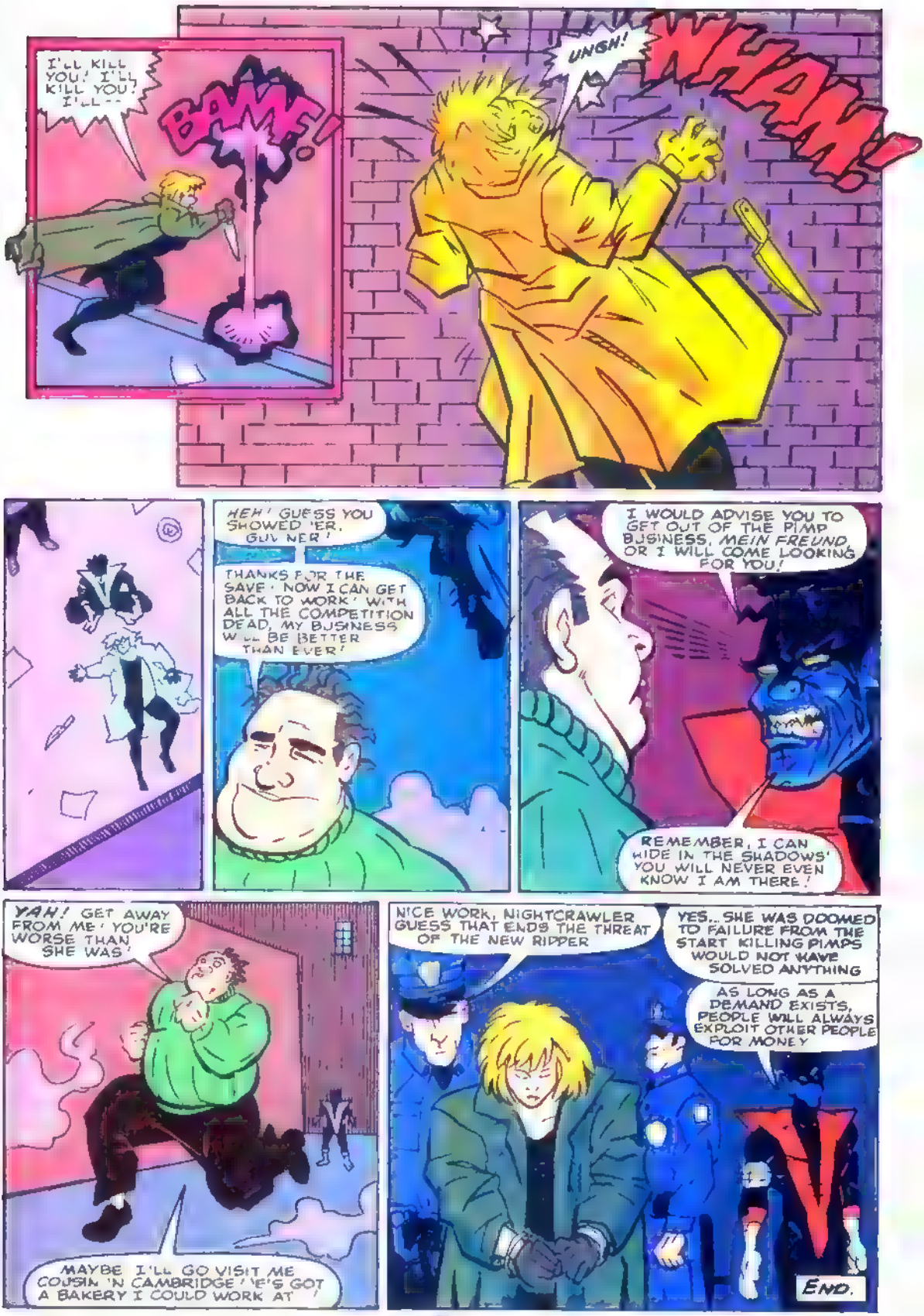

IT'S A DEMON!
HE ATTACKED THAT MAN!
I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE RIPPER.
I AM NOT THE RIPPER, YOU FOOLS!
I AM SICK OF GETTING BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING-- JUST BECAUSE I HAVE POINTED EARS AND FANGS!
THERE IS A MAN DYING HERE, AND HIS KILLER IS GETTING AWAY! NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME..
I HAVE GOT A KILLER TO CATCH!
BAMF!
COR! THE STENCH!
THE MURDERER HAS ESCAPED
I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK AND SEE HOW THE RIPPER'S VICTIM IS DOING.
HEY, I KNOW THIS DEMON! HE'S FROM EXCALIBUR!
BLIMEY, I THOUGHT 'E LOOKED FAMILIAR!
YOU'RE THE BEAST, RIGHT?
CLOBE ENOUGH
AMBULANCE IS ON THE WAY, GUV'NER.
HE MAY NOT LAST THAT LONG. IS ANYONE HERE A DOCTOR?
I'M A DOCTOR!
DR. JACQUELINE DAVENPORT, AT YOUR SERVICE
STEP ASIDE, PLEASE, EVERYONE. THIS MAN NEEDS HELP.


YOU 'EARD THE LADY FOLKS. GIVE 'ER ROOM!
HE'S BLEEDING INTERNALLY! I'LL HAVE TO DO SOME EMERGENCY SURGERY!
THAT IS RIGHT, EVERYONE STAY BACK, OR I WILL BITE YOU!
DON'T WORRY, I'M A PROFESSIONAL. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING
I'LL MAKE SURE 'E GETS EXACTLY THE TREATMENT 'E DESERVES!
SPLORCH
THERE! FINISHED WHAT I STARTED!
HE--HE'S GONE! I'M SORRY I TRIED TO HELP HIM!
IT IS ALL RIGHT, FRAULEIN. YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD
LET'S GET THAT ARM OF YOURS BANDAGED UP
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TWO PATIENTS TONIGHT
THIS MUST BE A VERY ROUGH EVENING FOR YOU. WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR A DRINK ?
SOON
--I BELIEVE THE ORIGINAL RIPPER KILLED PROSTITUTES IN THE WHITE CHAPEL NEIGHBORHOOD, WHEREAS THIS NEW ONE IS AFTER PIMPS HERE IN LONDON
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS NEW RIPPER VERY CLOSELY
SEE THAT MAN OVER THERE?
HE'S HARRY FLANAGAN -- ONE OF THE MORE SUCCESSFUL PIMPS IN THE AREA
HE HAS THE MOST TO GAIN BY KILLING OFF THE OTHER PIMPS. LOOK HOW HIS BUSINESS IS BOOMING
AND YOU PROPOSE THAT WE FOLLOW HARRY HOME TONIGHT?
I THINK HE'LL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE RIPPER!

THERE HE GOES! ARE YOU WITH ME?
AFTER THE WAY THAT CROWD TREATED ME TONIGHT I AM ALMOST TEMPTED TO SAY "NO"
BUT YOU ARE RIGHT, THE RIPPER MUST BE STOPPED
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF TAILS ON ME AND ONE OF 'EM'S GOT A TAIL!
GOTTA MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
CRASH
WHOOF!
LET ME HELP YOU! I'M A DOCTOR
WHERE WERE YOU HEADING IN SUCH A HURRY?
NIGHT-CRAWLER! IN THE NEXT ALLEY-- DO YOU HEAR IT?
SOMEONE'S SCREAMING! CRYING FOR HELP!
I HEAR NOTHI-
PLEASE YOU'VE GOT TO HELP THEM! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MAN!
VERY WELL.. I AM ON MY WAY
BAMF!
FOOL

NOW, YOU JUST SIT STILL, SIR. I'LL FIX YOU UP
JUST LET ME GET MY SURGICAL GEAR OUT OF MY BAG, AND WE'LL BE READY TO OPERATE!
OPERATE? WHAT THE--?!
YOU'RE THAT FLAMIN' RIPPER, AREN'T YOU?!
VERY PERCEPTIVE NOW, YOUR DAYS OF USING WOMEN ARE OVER!
WAIT! MAYBE WE CAN WORK OUT SOME KIND OF DEAL!
LOOKS LIKE MY HUNCH PAID OFF!
I GREW SUSPICIOUS WHEN JACKIE CONVENIENTLY SHOWED UP AT THE MURDER SCENE TONIGHT WITH HER MEDICAL SUPPLIES!
NO DEALS FOR YOU, MONSTER!
ALL RIGHT, JACKIE THE RIPPER -- YOUR KILLING SPREE HAS COME TO AN END!
NO!

DROP THE KNIFE!
WHY JACKIE? WHY?
LET ME GO! I HAVE TO KILL HIM FOR THE EVIL HE HAS DONE -- HE MUST DIE!
KEEP 'ER AWAY FROM ME! SHE'S CRAZY SHE IS!
JACKIE, IT IS OVER.. JUST TELL ME WHY YOU DID IT
ALL RIGHT--I MAY AS WELL.
MY SISTER WAS A PROSTITUTE, AND SHE WORKED FOR CREEPS LIKE THIS
THEY GOT HER HOOKED ON DRUGS..KEPT HER WORKING TO PAY FOR HER HABIT
SHE DIED OF AN OVERDOSE LAST MONTH AND MEN LIKE THIS JUST GO ON USING WOMEN..
IT-IT'S NOT FAIR! DON'T YOU SEE--I WAS JUST TRYING TO AVENGE MY SISTER!
I'VE ALREADY KILLED THREE PIMPS--AND I WOULD HAVE KILLED THIS ONE, TOO..
.IF NOT FOR YOU! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING, YOU LITTLE ELF!


I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL--
BAM!
UNGH!
WHAM!
HEH! GUESS YOU SHOWED 'ER, GUV NER!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE. NOW I CAN GET BACK TO WORK. WITH ALL THE COMPETITION DEAD, MY BUSINESS WILL BE BETTER THAN EVER!
I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO GET OUT OF THE PIMP BUSINESS, MEIN FREUND, OR I WILL COME LOOKING FOR YOU!
REMEMBER, I CAN HIDE IN THE SHADOWS. YOU WILL NEVER EVEN KNOW I AM THERE!
YAH! GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE WORSE THAN SHE WAS!
MAYBE I'LL GO VISIT ME COUSIN 'N CAMBRIDGE! 'E'S GOT A BAKERY I COULD WORK AT
NICE WORK, NIGHTCRAWLER. GUESS THAT ENDS THE THREAT OF THE NEW RIPPER
YES.. SHE WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE START. KILLING PIMPS WOULD NOT HAVE SOLVED ANYTHING
AS LONG AS A DEMAND EXISTS, PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS EXPLOIT OTHER PEOPLE FOR MONEY
END.

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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
THANOS

Dear Terry,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #104:

Ghost Rider/ Dr. Strange: This is one of the finest Ghost Rider sagas this book has ever presented. Too bad it's only six parts. Even though this installment wasn't quite as good as the others, this is still the kind of serial I expect from MCP. 3 Claws.

U.S. Agent: I've never liked this character since he gave up being Captain America. His talk has always been too tough and corny. Besides him, though, I liked the story. It was taken right out of today's headlines, and it was set up well for eight pages. The only thing that held it back was, alas, U.S. Agent. The story, plot and art get 2 1/2 Claws.

Wolverine/Nightcrawler: After insulting the art for the first half of the story, I found pages five through eight to be the best artwork in the serial so far. And the story continues to improve with every installment. 3 and 1/2 Claws!

Young Gods: This is the first spark of life I've seen in this story since it began. Once again, the writing was wonderful, as was the art and, for the first time, I can't wait for the next chapter. Still, the crowd attacking the hero is a little overused in comics, so: 3 and 1/2 Claws! And, if you keep it up next time, it will be 4 Claws.

Wolverine and Ghost Rider Covers: Both get 4 Claws! They're just standing there, but it really works for me. Take a bow, Sam!

Overall: The Wolverine half of the book improved. The other fell slightly below par. Still, it's an overall improvement: 3 Claws!

Aaron Belisle
3 Danielle Ct.
Suffern, NY 10901

Dear Terry,

Re: 104:

Ghost Rider and Dr. Strange are an ideal team for "Into the Realm of Gorn." Writer Howard Mackie and artist Rick Leonardi have woven this epic brilliantly. Gorn seems a fitting foe for this team, bringing the familiar element of magic into play. A+.

U.S. Agent facing racism: This true-life situation was addressed quite well here. B.

As for Wolverine, what a follow-up to Truman and Foxx! Gene Colan sets the scene of our tale in Germany perfectly. The art sets an original mood of macabre and reverence—a combination not often seen in mutant titles. Al Williamson and Kelly Corvese should also be commended for adding those special touches that have made this saga so good. A+

Although I am not familiar with the Young Gods, the story has caught my interest. Tom Sutton's art reminds me of Mark Bagley on NEW WARRIORS. B+.

Please give Sam Kieth his own Wolverine book!!!

Adam Stephens
1023 Riverside Dr.
Greenup, KY 41144

Dear Terry,

Re: MCP #104 Letters.

The Davis: This was a thoughtful, well-written letter. I enjoyed reading it.

Michael Guerra: This letter was neither brilliant nor moronic. 2 Claws!

Adam Stephens: A pleasing letter, but lacking in depth. B+.

David Scott:: I hurled.

Seriously, I've missed Len Biehl's letters. They are often better than some of the stories. Maybe one of your stories could be about Len... just a thought! So, don't print this letter unless you print one of Len's too.

Karen Friesen
3159 Shelbourne St.
Victoria, BC V8T 3A5 Canada

We're still waiting for him to write us again, Karen. Maybe this will spur him on—then you can write your Len Biehl tale... or maybe we'll leave that for Scott Lobdell!

GHOST RIDER

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

GHOST RIDER/ WEREWOLF..... 1
RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS
Part 4 of 6
"UNDERCOVER AT THE BLACK MOON BAR & GRILL"

Last issue, Ghost Rider and the Werewolf battled the Braineaters to a standstill on the Brooklyn Bridge! But the viscious werewolf gang took a hostage...young Billy Baldwin! Now, to save him, Dan Ketch goes into their lair undercover...

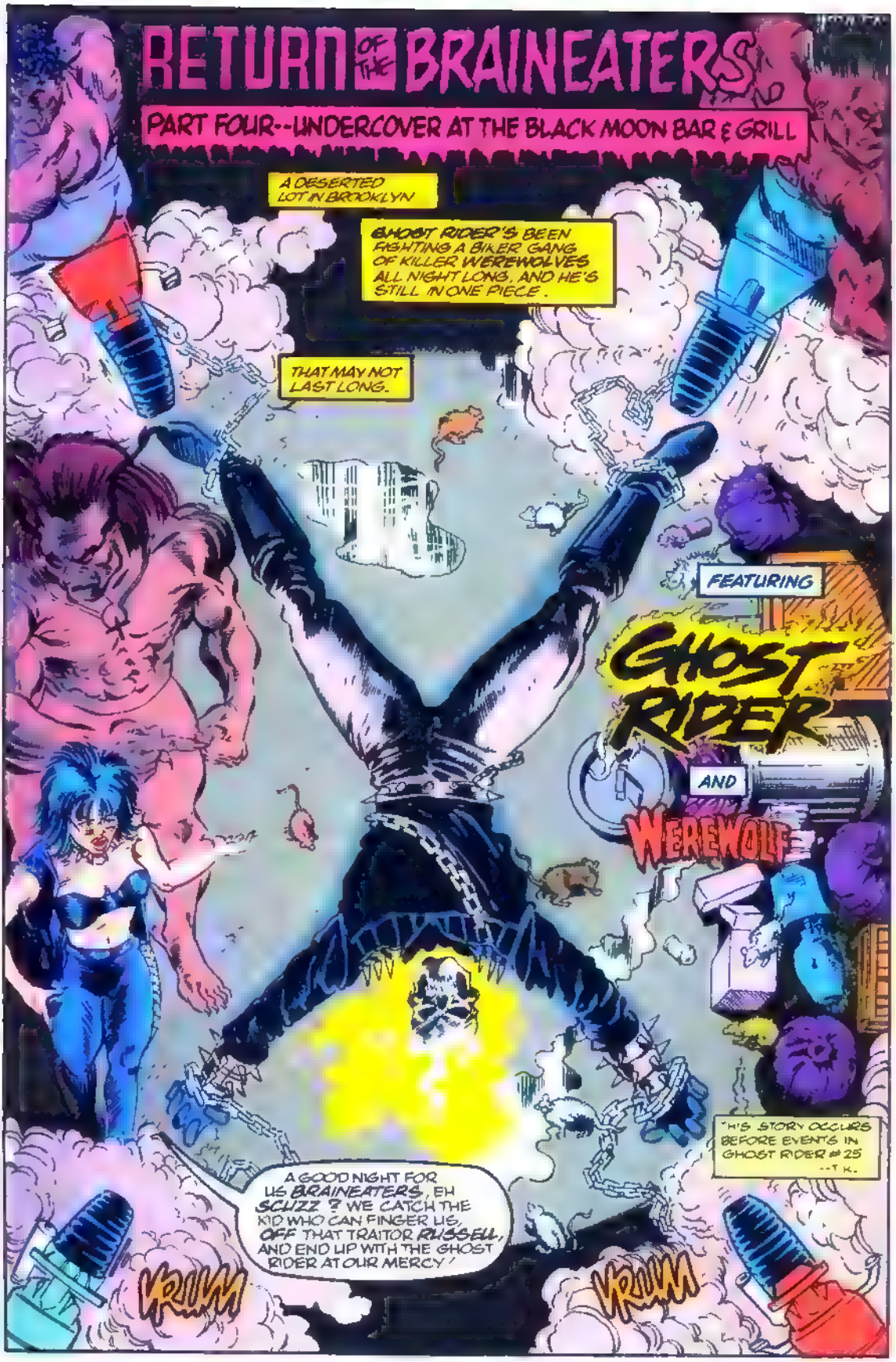
Writer — CHRIS COOPER
Penciler — JOHN STANISCI
Inker — JIMMY PALMIOTTI/ KEN BRANCH
Letterer —STEVE DUTRO
Colorist — FRED MENDEZ

THANOS 9
I, THANOS
Part 3 of 4
"DEATH'S DARK DOMAIN"

Previously, Thanos was confronted by Mistress Death...who at long last spoke to him! Now, she demands that he prove his love for her...

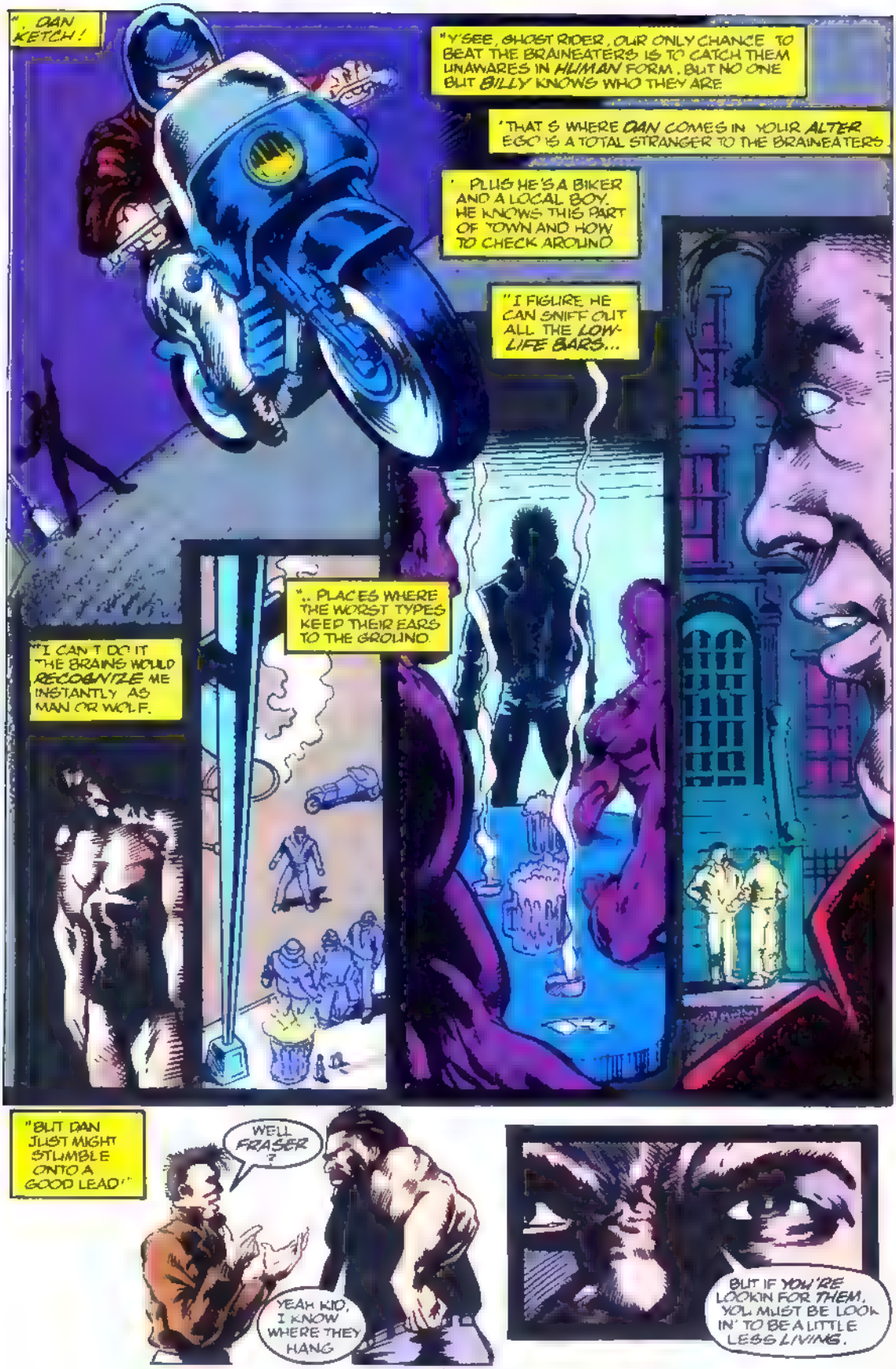
Writer —JIM STARLIN
Artist — SHAWN McMANUS
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — TINSLEY/MOSSOFF

NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE AGREES TO HELP MARY UNCOVER HER PAST, AS ROBERTS GOES WILD! THE WEREWOLF PURSUES THE BRAINEATERS AFTER THEY VICTIMIZE DAN KETCH! THE FINALE OF "I, THANOS"! PLUS, AN ALL-NEW IRON FIST FEATURE!

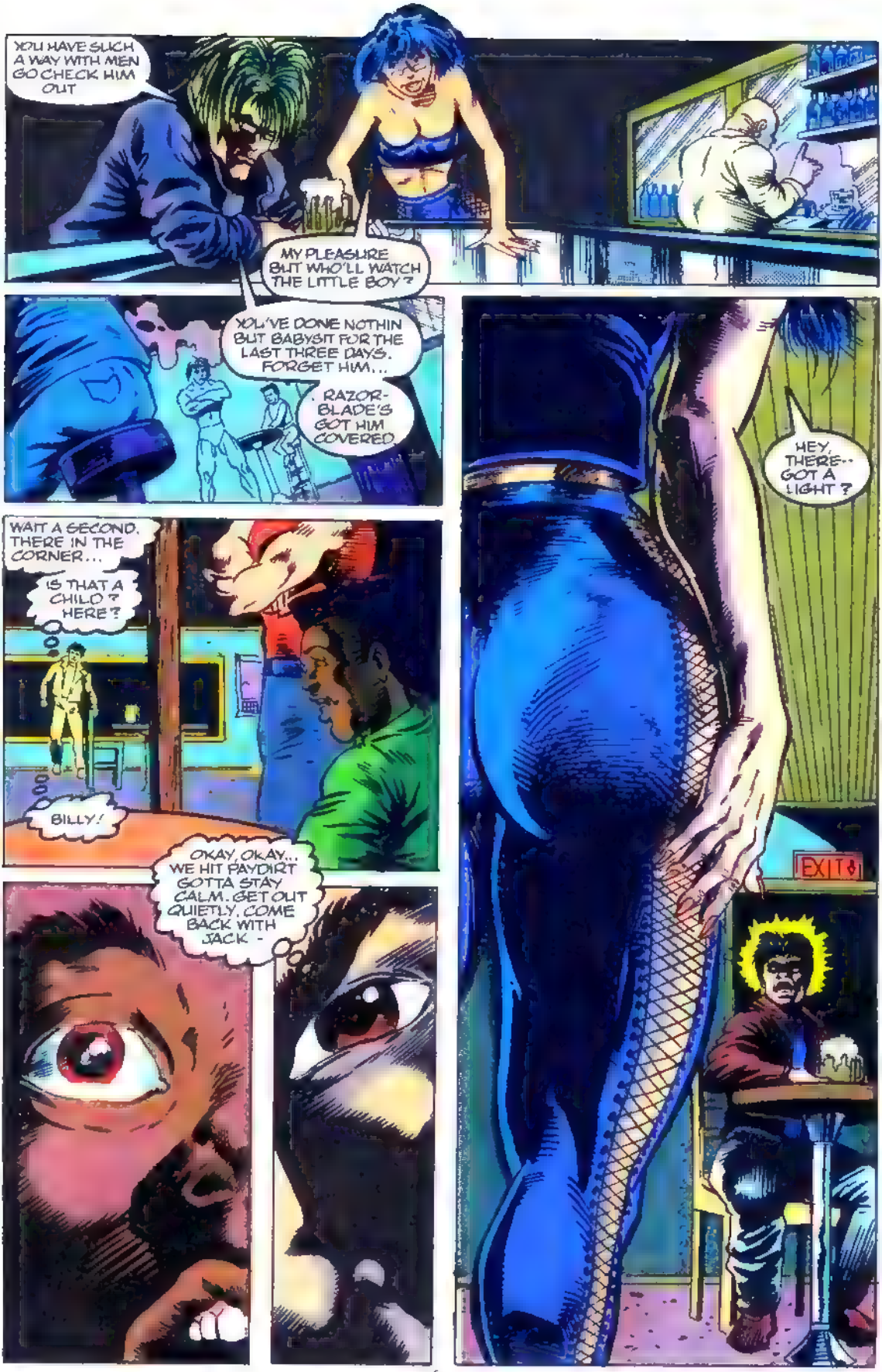

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS
PART FOUR--UNDERCOVER AT THE BLACK MOON BAR & GRILL
A DESERTED LOT IN BROOKLYN
GHOST RIDER'S BEEN FIGHTING A BIKER GANG OF KILLER WEREWOLVES ALL NIGHT LONG, AND HE'S STILL IN ONE PIECE.
THAT MAY NOT LAST LONG.
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER
AND
WEREWOLF
"HIS STORY OCCURS BEFORE EVENTS IN GHOST RIDER #25 --T.K.
A GOOD NIGHT FOR US BRAINEATERS, EH SCUZZ? WE CATCH THE KID WHO CAN FINGER US, OFF THAT TRAITOR RUSSELL, AND END UP WITH THE GHOST RIDER AT OUR MERCY!
KRUM
KRUM

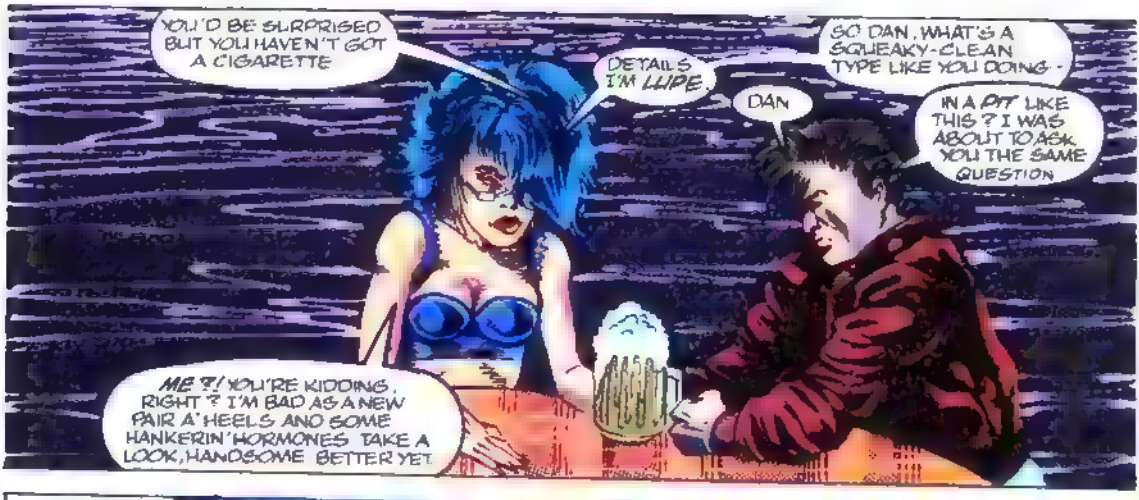
GHOST RIDER'S A FOOL LUPE--SO NOBLE THAT HE SURRENDERS RATHER THAN SEE THE BOY HURT!
THEN LET THE BOY SEE GHOST RIDER SUFFER--AS HE'S TORN LIMB FROM LIMB!
NOW, YOU MUTTS--LET'ER RIP!
SHINK
MORE ENGINE!
VRROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMM
MORE ENGINE!
SPINK
KRAK
THE CHAINS GAVE OUT! HE'S FREE!

THAT'S IT! THE PUP'S DOG MEAT!
NO!
WATCH YER MOUTH, BABE OR YOU'LL BE FIRST!
BUT THE BOY'S OUR ONLY GUARANTEE, IN CASE GHOST RIDER COMES AFTER US AGAIN - THE KID'S OUR INSURANCE!
ALL RIGHT THE KID LIVES--FOR NOW. HE COMES WITH US.
AS FOR THE BONY GEEK-- HE CAN BARELY STAND RIGHT NOW, LET ALONE RIDE. HE WON'T BE TRACKING US.
HE'S RIGHT YOU KNOW..
JACK RUSSELL!
--EVEN MY LUPINE SENSES WON'T HELP US TRACK THEM BRAINS ARE THAT GOOD.
WHEN I SAW YOU FALL OFF THE BRIDGE, I THOUGHT
IT WAS A NEAR THING. BUT MY WOLF FORM'S STURDIER THAN THEY REALIZED. THOUGH IT TOOK ME UNTIL NOW TO RECOVER AND GET HERE.
THEN WE MUST HURRY! THE BOY IS IN DANGER!
WAIT. WITH BILLY AS A HOSTAGE, EVEN IF WE CATCH THEM, IT'S THE SAME OLD STAND-OFF. I HAVE A BETTER IDEA..
BUT I DON'T NEED YOU!, GHOST RIDER --I NEED..


"...DAN KETCH!
"Y'SEE, GHOST RIDER, OUR ONLY CHANCE TO BEAT THE BRAINEATERS IS TO CATCH THEM UNAWARES IN HUMAN FORM. BUT NO ONE BUT BILLY KNOWS WHO THEY ARE.
"THAT'S WHERE DAN COMES IN. YOUR ALTER EGO IS A TOTAL STRANGER TO THE BRAINEATERS.
"PLUS HE'S A BIKER AND A LOCAL BOY. HE KNOWS THIS PART OF TOWN AND HOW TO CHECK AROUND.
"I FIGURE HE CAN SNIFF OUT ALL THE LOW-LIFE BARS...
"... PLACES WHERE THE WORST TYPES KEEP THEIR EARS TO THE GROUND.
"I CAN'T DO IT. THE BRAINS WOULD RECOGNIZE ME INSTANTLY AS MAN OR WOLF.
"BUT DAN JUST MIGHT STUMBLE ONTO A GOOD LEAD!"
WELL, FRASER?
YEAH KID, I KNOW WHERE THEY HANG.
BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKIN FOR THEM, YOU MUST BE LOOKIN' TO BE A LITTLE LESS LIVING.

"YOU CAN USUALLY FIND EM WARMIN UP AT THE BLACK MOON BAR AND GRILL.
'AND BE READY FOR A ROUGH RIDE!"
WHOA
I'VE SEEN SOME WILD WATERING HOLES, BUT THIS
YOU'RE NOTHIN BUT TRASH, LUPE
WHAT'S THAT MAKE YOU - A TRASH COLLECTOR?
NAH, JUST A--
SNIFF SNIFF
WHAT IS IT SCUZZ?
I'M NOT SURE - SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT GUY'S SCENT


YOU HAVE SUCH A WAY WITH MEN GO CHECK HIM OUT
MY PLEASURE BUT WHO'LL WATCH THE LITTLE BOY?
YOU'VE DONE NOTHIN BUT BABYSIT FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS. FORGET HIM...
RAZOR-BLADE'S GOT HIM COVERED
HEY, THERE-- GOT A LIGHT?
EXIT
WAIT A SECOND. THERE IN THE CORNER...
IS THAT A CHILD? HERE?
BILLY!
OKAY, OKAY... WE HIT PAYDIRT GOTTA STAY CALM. GET OUT QUIETLY, COME BACK WITH JACK -


YOU'D BE SURPRISED BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CIGARETTE
DETAILS I'M LUPE
DAN
SO DAN, WHAT'S A SQUEAKY-CLEAN TYPE LIKE YOU DOING IN A PIT LIKE THIS? I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION
ME?! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? I'M BAD AS A NEW PAIR A' HEELS AND SOME HANKERIN' HORMONES TAKE A LOOK, HANDSOME BETTER YET

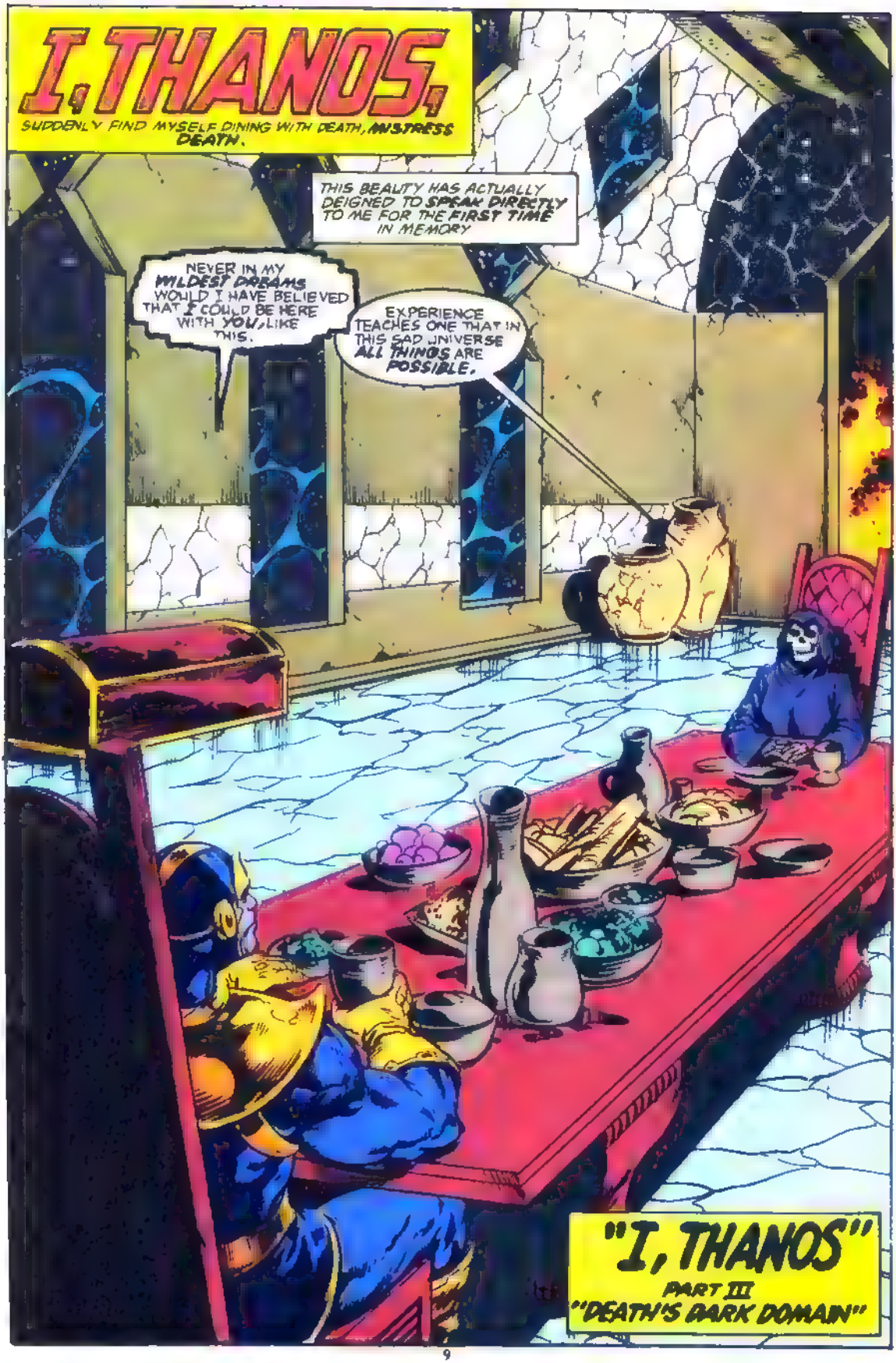
TAKE A TASTE
YOU'RE SOMETHING YOU KNOW THAT?
BELIEVE IT
NO I MEAN YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS HERE THEY HURT PEOPLE YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME
HEY YOU DON'T KNOW ME OR WHAT I'VE DONE.
NO I DON'T BUT I GET THE FEELING MAYBE YOU'RE LOOKING TO DO BETTER.
.. IF SOMEBODY'D JUST SHOW YOU HOW

IT'S STARTIN TO LOOK A LITTLE TOO FRIENDLY OVER THERE BOYS.. ?

HEY!

YOU LIKE YOUR WORK TOO MUCH LUPE LET'S SEE IF YOU LIKE IT AFTER IT'S BLED TO DEATH
C'MON CODY! WE'LL TAKE HIM OUT BACK, AND THEN-
TOO MANY OF THEM TO FIGHT.. GOTTA WAIT FOR AN OPENING..

IT'S SHOWTIME!
BRAK
THWAM
BOOM
KRAK
THUNK
I DON'T NEED TO CHANGE TO FINISH THAT LOSER!
HEH! IF THE LEAD PIPE TO THE HEAD DIDN'T DO THE TRICK, THEN LIKE THE BOSS SAYS--
--LET HIM BLEED TO DEATH!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE..

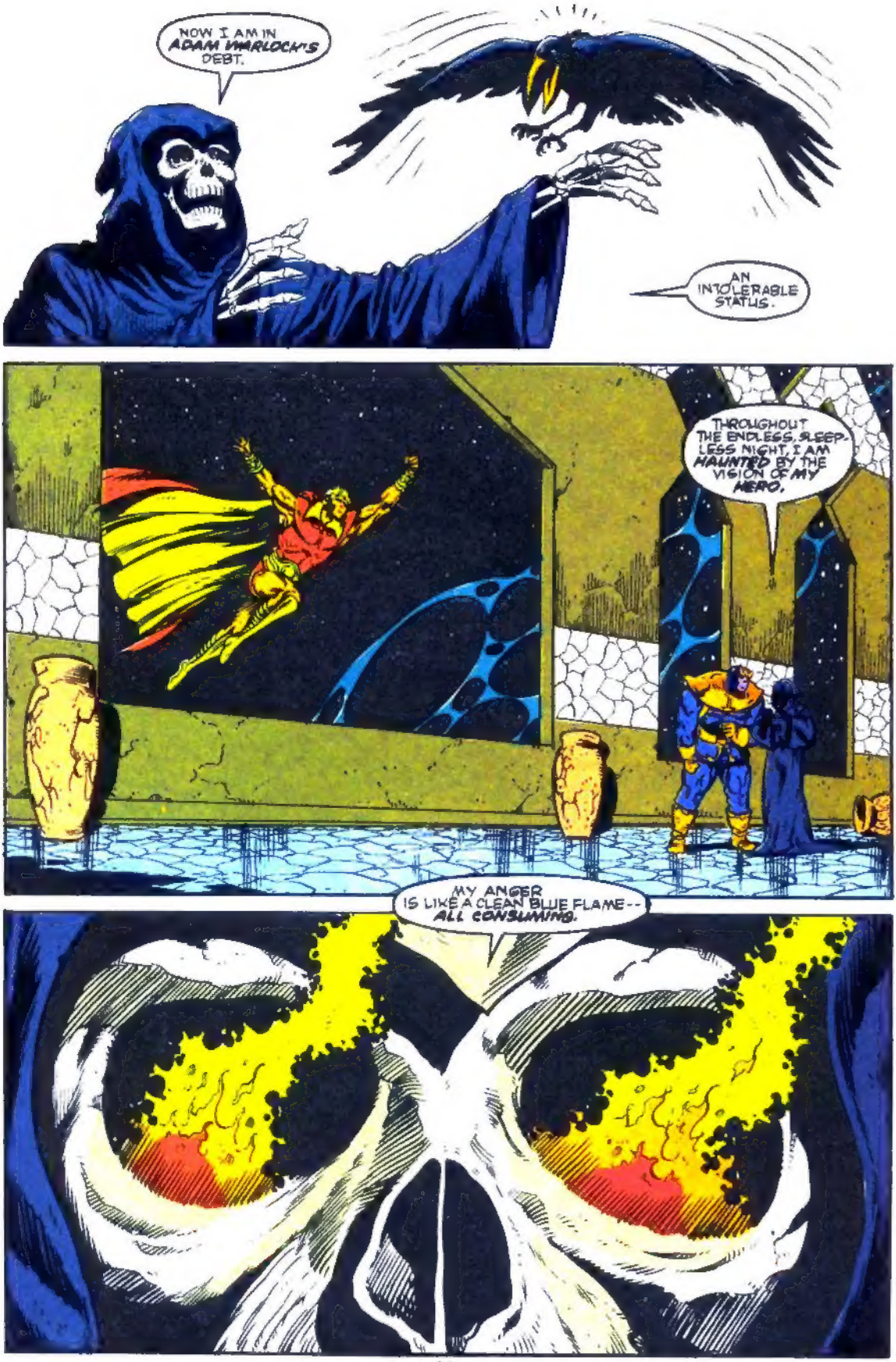

I, THANOS,
SUDDENLY FIND MYSELF DINING WITH DEATH, MISTRESS DEATH.
THIS BEAUTY HAS ACTUALLY DEIGNED TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO ME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY
NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS WOULD I HAVE BELIEVED THAT I COULD BE HERE WITH YOU, LIKE THIS.
EXPERIENCE TEACHES ONE THAT IN THIS SAD UNIVERSE ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.
"I, THANOS"
PART III
"DEATH'S DARK DOMAIN"

ALL THINGS...
BEGINNINGS
ENDINGS.
REUNIONS.
EVEN FORGIVE-NESS.
MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES
SURELY, MISTRESS, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT, DESPITE ALL THAT HAS OCCURRED, MY HEART ST LL YEARNS FOR YOU
THANOS OF TITAN WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
I WILL FOREVER BE YOUR SERVANT.

PROVE THIS CLAIM.
HOW?
YOU WERE BY FAR THE BEST EVER TO TEND MY DARK NEEDS.
WHICH IS WHY I RESURRECTED YOU TO FURTHER THE CAUSE
THROUGHOUT ALL ETERNITY I NEVER BEFORE HONORED ANY SOUL IN SUCH A FASHION
YET THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU, THANOS, WAS IT?
YOU CRAVED OMNIPOTENCE.
LOVE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT, YOU HAD TO BECOME MY SUPERIOR, MY LORD.
SUCH BITTER BETRAYAL.
I'M... SORRY

THE SCHISM WHICH SEPARATES US SEEMS UNTRAVERSABLE.
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF I WERE--
NO!
IT CAN BE AS IT WAS.
AGAIN I ASK YOU, MISTRESS
HOW?
LIKE ALL ABSTRACT DEITIES, I AM A PROUD CREATURE.
BUT MY PRIDE IS BLINDING.
IT SHIELDS ME FROM THE MORTIFICATIONS OF EXISTENCE...
...AND KEPT ME FROM RECOGNIZING YOUR DARK AMBITIONS.

THAT FAILING MADE ME YOUR VICTIM AND SLAVE.
AS I WAS ALWAYS YOURS.
TRUE.
BUT IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS, DEATH WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE SUBJUGATED.
AS MATRON OF THE DIVIDE, I WAS CREATED TO STAND ALONE AND FREE.
IT IS AGAINST MY NATURE TO PAY HOMAGE OR OWE ALLEGIANCE TO ANY LIVING SOUL.
THE VERY THOUGHT I FIND ABHORRENT.
CAN YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THAT?
I BELIEVE SO.
YOUR ACTIONS PLACED ME IN THE POSITION WHERE I NEEDED RESCUING.
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THAT HUMILIATION IS YOURS, THANOS.
WARLOCK SAVED YOU FROM MY CLUTCHES.
EXACTLY.


NOW I AM IN ADAM WARLOCK'S DEBT.
AN INTOLERABLE STATUS.
THROUGHOUT THE ENDLESS, SLEEPLESS NIGHT, I AM HAUNTED BY THE VISION OF MY HERO.
MY ANGER IS LIKE A CLEAN BLUE FLAME-- ALL CONSUMING.

BUT MY VENGEFUL CLAWS ARE BOUND IN TWINES OF HONOR AND DUTY.
I BE TRAPPED AND HELPLESS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF ASTRAL CONVENTION.
I CANNOT SMITE HIM WHO BEDEVILS ME.
BUT YOU, TITAN, ARE NOT SHACKLED BY SUCH PETTY RESTRICTIONS.
YOU ARE TRULY A FREE AGENT.

AGAIN, MISTRESS, I ASK YOU TO CLEARLY STATE...
...HOW MAY THANOS OF TITAN SERVE YOU?
KILL ADAM WARLOCK.
DO SO, AND I SHALL BE YOURS THROUGHOUT ETERNITY
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...